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## UNVEILING OF THE BUST OF THE LATE MR. R. NARAYANASWAMI IYER.

A bust of the late Mr. R. NARAYANASWAMI IYER, Proprietor of the Madras Law Journal, presented by the staff of the Madras Law Journal Office and Kalaimagal Office as a mark of their esteem and affection for the late Mr. R. Narayanaswami Iyer was unveiled on the 4th January, 1948, in the premises of the Madras Law Journal by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Chandrasekhara Iyer. Mr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Food presided over the function.

Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri on behalf of the Editorial Committee of the Madras Law Journal requesting Mr. Chandrasekhara Iyer to unveil the bust said that the late Mr. Narayanaswami Aiyar belonged to that class of people who deserved to be honoured by all. Knowing him intimately the speaker could say that Mr. Narayanaswami Aiyar was loved and respected by his employees on account of his affable manners and generous heart towards them. He hoped that his son who was now in charge of the concern would continue in the foot-steps of his father rendering greater service to the legal public.

Mr. Justice N. Chandrasekhara Iyer in unveiling the bust said :

When my young friend Mr. Ramaratnam asked me to unveil this bust of his revered father, I accepted the invitation with pleasure. I knew Mr. Narayanaswami Iyer ever since 1909 when I walked into Mr. V. Krishnaswami Iyer's house as a raw apprentice at law. He was helpful to me during my six months stay with Mr. Krishnaswami Iyer as an apprentice and he became my friend later on. So, I can speak with a fair amount of knowledge and authority about the several qualities which endeared Mr. Narayanaswami Iyer to those with whom he came into contact. He was a lovable person, with a sweet and disarming smile and a unique charm of manner. As a friend, his loyalties were steadfast and strong. He was a man of simple habits and was deeply pious and austere. Ostentation was unknown to him and when he prospered in business, he helped silently many a poor man with financial assistance. In fact, he took a genuine delight in secret help of this kind.

As a lawyer or as an advocate, he was perhaps not much of a success. This was because he did not possess in abundance some of the qualities requisite for making a mark in the profession—such as a spirit of adventure, companionship and camaraderie and discreet pushfulness. He was of a shy and retiring disposition rather, and the competitive struggle involved in the stress and conflict of the legal arena was not exactly suited to his temperament. But he had great capacity for organisation and proved his skill and ability when he took up the Madras Law Journal

and brought it to its present position of pre-eminence in the legal world all over India. His business instincts and straight-forwardness as well as high integrity of character enabled him to achieve this result; and today, it can be safey asserted that the Madras Law Journal is of no less authority than the Indian Law Reports. In fact, its usefulness is greater and it has acquired a reputation for accurate and prompt reporting and sober criticism.

Mr. Narayanaswami Iyer was not content with his efforts to make the Madras Law Journal a first-rate legal periodical. He turned his hands to other publications as well. For instance, the "Kalaimagal" is his creation. The publication of Sanskrit classics was one of his favourite enterprises and several Sanskrit works, notably the SRIMAD VALMIKI RAMAYANA, have been made accessible at comparatively cheap prices to the public by Mr. Narayanaswami Iyer.

He furnished a good example of how piety and godliness can be combined with business efficiency. The popular notion that to attain success in a business venture, a certain amount of deviation from strict standards of integrity or honesty is inevitable, and lapses from the strait path of rectitude must be tolerated is not true or correct. In the long run, it is the man of fundamental honesty and high probity of character who flourishes even in business. Our friend Mr. Narayanaswami Iyer furnishes proof of this statement.

He maintained cordial relations with his employees. It is the Editorial Committee and the staff of the Madras Law Journal and the employees of the Press that have raised this bust to honour a man who richly deserves it. He was a kindly person, benovolent, charitable and religious. He was conservative in habits and outlook and saw much wisdom and sense in our daily usages, unlike some of our modernised friends. This quality made him steady and sober and one who adhered to certain standards in daily life. It is a matter of satisfaction that his son Mr. Ramaratnam is following in his father's footsteps.

May this bust serve as an example of a good and capable man who brought a business venture into great prominence by honest and indefatigable efforts and strove hard to be helpful not only to those who served with or under him but also to a wider public by his acts of benevolence and generosity.

Mr. T. S. S. Rajan expressed his great pleasure in having been given the opportunity of taking part in the function He said that though he had not had the pleasure of meeting the late Mr. R. Narayanaswami Iyer often, he was sure that the late Mr. R. Narayanaswami Iyer richly deserved what all had been said of him this morning. The fact that the staff of the Madras Law Journal had presented the bust was evidence of the happy relationship that had existed between the employer and the employees. He was thankful to the late Mr. R. Narayanaswami Iyer for the opportunity given to him to bring out some of his own books. He concluded with the hope that the Madras Law Journal under the management of his son Mr. N. Ramaratnam would continue to serve the public in the same manner as heretofore.

Mr. N. Ramaratnam the present proprietor of the Madras Law Journal in accepting the bust expressed his thanks for the honour done to his father.

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